

REMARKS

In a first preliminary amendment filed on March 20, 2006, applicants amended independent claim 1 to further patentably distinguish from Katsuma. Claim 9 was amended to conform the preamble to the title of the invention. New claims 34 and 35 were added to provide a fuller scope of coverage.

By this second preliminary amendment, independent claim 35 has been amended to delete the limitation that the piezoelectric vibrator is provided "directly" on the substrate. The structural feature of the piezoelectric vibrator being provided "directly" on the substrate is covered by independent claim 1. Independent claim 35, instead, is directed to the structural feature of the support member contacting and supporting the piezoelectric vibrator only in a region thereof corresponding to a node of vibration of the piezoelectric vibrator which, as recognized by the Board in the January 20, 2006 decision, is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and discussion, and in light of the amendments and arguments presented in the March 20 preliminary amendment, the application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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